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clined to attribute to King Alfred. Her argument that the *fyrð* had an important nucleus of professional warriors and that military service, once a personal duty, had been "modified by a gradual territorialization", is interesting but not wholly conclusive. The author is inclined to doubt the story that King Alfred sent a mission to India; but she calls attention to the fact that India in the Middle Ages was a very broad term, and that the shrine of St. Thomas, to which the English king is said to have promised alms, was not in Hindustan but in Edessa.

The most prominent fact of Alfred's career—his long struggle with the Danes—the author has studied to the last detail. She views the invasions as a part of the great viking attack on Western Europe, and by tracing the fortunes of this movement in the Frankish lands she is able to account for its successes and failures in England. A few maps would have added greatly to the reader's appreciation of this part of the work; Miss Lees has included only two and neither of these is very helpful. The volume also suffers from a poverty of foot-notes. Miss Lees does occasionally cite her authorities but not nearly so often as one would wish or expect.

LAURENCE M. LARSON.

Handboek tot de Staatskundige Geschiedenis van Nederland. Door I. H. GOSSES en N. JAPIKSE. [Nijhoff's Handboeken.] (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. 1918. Pp. cxxviii +, 524. Guld. 8.50.)

It is difficult to touch the history of Holland without inconsistencies in terminology, so various has been the past and so indeterminate the names applied to the land under successive political aspects. The authors of this handbook acknowledge, at the outset, that their survey begins *before* the beginning. Taking the existing kingdom of Holland in its present territorial extent, its unified administrative existence is certainly a late growth. Yet here Professor Gosses opens his section of the early narrative at 56 B.C., planning to carry it down to the year 1568, at which date Dr. Japikse starts in with his story of the development of the modern state, although that, too, was only present in potentialities. The outbreak of Dutch rebellion against Spanish domination is made a point of departure for the section of the work now brought to completion. The earlier part, that of Professor Gosses, the part whose pages are numbered with Roman numerals, is still unfinished. Dr. Japikse's narrative is contained in parts I.-IV. He presents a clear, well-told outline of the political changes through which the government has passed, down to the crucial year of 1914. There is no diversion into things social, economic, or literary, although the well-selected bibliographical lists contain matter that expands, naturally, into all those phases. Yet narrowed as it is in scope the outline is by no means a dry skeleton of itemized facts. Dr. Japikse has improved wonderfully in

style since writing his first book. That discussion of the complications between England and the Dutch Republic, 1660-1665, was fatiguing reading although a notable contribution to sixteenth-century diplomatic history. There has certainly been a marked gain in facility of expression, as well as in the authoritative attitude that comes from ripe work such as that to which Dr. Japikse has devoted himself. In this outline, it is easy to see where his own opinions are; and there are charming little phrases here and there serving to illuminate effectively the text, as where he makes the distinction between standing within a window and leaning far out of it to get a wider view—to illustrate the respective points of view of national and provincial history.

The parts covering 1568-1815 do not exhibit any very original matter nor attitude of mind, although useful in bibliographical suggestions. Far more valuable are the pages devoted to 1815-1914, together with the literature and documents listed. They form an eminently convenient survey of Dutch parties and international relations from the point of view of a modern liberal scholar. Nor is the outline devoid of color. Dr. Japikse's characterization of William I. in the difficulties of launching and stabilizing the kingdom made at Vienna, is fair and by no means over-laudatory of Holland's first sovereign from the House of Nassau. Perhaps he is rather too lenient in regard to the fashion in which the constitution was forced down Belgian throats by the disfranchising of its opponents, and he is not sympathetic to Belgian difficulties. Perhaps that is inevitable at a moment when redress for disadvantages then—1839—accepted seems unjustifiable to any Hollander. The summary of the separation of Holland and Belgium is not given without the writer's own opinion escaping from the skeleton of facts. He considers that the cleft was inevitable from the inherent incompatibility of the two units, and that Holland profited by the division even though that kingdom emerged from conflict as a little power—*kleine mogendheid*.

His discussion of political parties and international relations as they have prevailed down to the outbreak of war is distinctly valuable, as the character of Dutch party division is not easy to grasp, so different are the conditions from those prevailing here or in England. Now that proportional representation has been introduced, the existence of these many factions becomes of new importance in legislative measures. Here, too, the bibliography is very serviceable.

It may be added that the handbook is in a series of other handbooks planned by the publishers, and thus is open to the faults of such series where the work is not done *con amore*. But nevertheless this particular handbook is to be recommended.